

Appl. No. 09/879,451
Amdt. Dated April 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 14, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P14636-US1
EUS/J/P/05-3088

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled claims 1-16 and new claims 17-37 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 17-37 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho et al. (US 6,091,953 hereinafter Ho) in view of Anquetil, et al. ("Media Gateway Control Protocol and Voice Over IP Gateways, hereinafter Anquetil). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-16 without prejudice. The Examiner's consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

As disclosed in the Applicant's invention, each circuit pathway typically has an associated Circuit Identity Code (CIC) stored in the MGWSDB. Upon request from one MSC in of a pool of MSCs, the MGWSN selects an available circuit pathway to a mobile unit that is coupled with a particular (target) base station. The circuit pathway, identified by a unique CIC, includes the BSC and a connecting Media Gateway (MGW). The MGWSN returns the identity of the MGW and the CIC, to the requesting MSC. Using the available circuit pathway identified by the CIC, a connection is made from the requesting MSC to the selected MGW and to the requested BSC. (Page 7-8, para. 23). The purpose and focus of the Applicant's invention is to eliminate the need for dedicated circuit pathways between BSCs and MSCs.

The Ho reference appears to disclose a communication system for distributing signaling messages in a scalable wireless network. A dispatching switch couples the base station system (BSS) to the plurality of mobile switching centers (MSC) and is responsible for assigning the mobile units to the MSCs. The dispatching switch assigns each mobile unit to an MSC so as to equalize loading among the MSCs and also routes communications between the BSS and the MSCs (Col. 6, lines 7-15). In contrast to the

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Applicant's invention, the dispatching switch in the Ho reference determines the loading on the MSCs and assigns mobile units to the appropriate MSC to distribute the load.

In the Detailed Action, the MGWSN of the Applicant's invention is characterized as equivalent to the dispatching switch of Ho. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization. In the Applicant's invention, a MSC seeks to connect to a particular mobile unit through a particular BSC. The MGWSN checks a connected database to determine an available (non-busy) circuit between the MSC and the BSC. The MGWSN, utilizing the CIC of the available circuit pathway, routes the connection between the MSC and BSC via a media gateway (not utilized in the Ho reference) to a BSC requested by the MSC (page 7, para. 22). This is the reverse of the Ho reference where the dispatching switch seeks to balance the load on a pool of MSCs by assigning mobile units to lightly loaded MSCs. (Col 5, lines 20-23, Col. 6, lines 1-11).

In the Applicant's invention, the MGWSN provides a central means for pooling and controlling circuits in the core network such that no dedicated circuits between the BSCs and MSCs are required. (Page 7, para. 22) In addition, an individual MSC can be added or removed from the MSC pool without the BSCs being aware of the change, which is not possible when dedicated circuits are used.

The Anquetil reference is cited for having a media gateway controller, which reads on the Media Gateway Selection Node. Anquetil describes Media Gateway Control Protocol and its use in a single Media Gateway Control (MGC). The protocol is described as managing, with the MGC, a set of media gateways and interfacing with an SS7 network via a signaling gateway. The media gateways in Anquetil handle media stream conversion and the MGC manages the connections in the packet network. Anquetil does not refer to wireless telecommunication network connections. In fact all the examples in the article refer to wireline examples. Anquetil does not mention or imply connecting the media gateways to Base Station Controllers. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Anquetil reference does not disclose utilizing the Media Gateway Controller to designate circuit pathways between a MSC and a particular, requested BSC via a media gateway. Nor does the Anquetil reference suggest

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accessing a database for a CIC to reserve an available circuit pathway between the MSC and the requested BSC; via a selected media gateway.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho in view of Anquetil and further in view of Stumpert (WO 01/13657).

The Stumpert reference is cited for teaching a network having at least two gateways. Stumpert appears to disclose a method for separating call control and bearer control signals. Bearer control relates to controlling selection of a path through the transmission network and utilizing the required resources. Call control relates to subscriber and service control. It is respectfully submitted that the Stumpert reference does not address the above-identified deficiencies of Ho with respect to the Applicant's invention. The combination of the Ho, Anquetil and Stumpert references fails to teach a media gateway selection node that chooses and implements available circuit pathways between an Base Station Controller, a selected media gateway and a requesting MSC.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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